

The Church of God, National Ministers' Convention
Saturday 14th November 2009, Handsworth, Birmingham

Theme - 'Stay Connected'

This year's Ministers' Convention was a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and self-dedication to the Lord. The Lord's presence could be felt from the opening of the convention as we sang 'Jesus got a Hold of my Life' and 'Hosanna in the Highest'.

The convention was opened by our National Overseer Pastor Philip C. Bennett and throughout the day powerful encouragements were given by different speakers. Sister Wilhelmina Brown preached on the topic **"...for without m ye can do nothing"** (St John 15:5), Pastor Frances Prince preached on the topic **'Examine yourself occasionally and see if you are in the faith.'** (Advice to Members) and Pastor Beverley Anderson used the topic **"...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"** (St. Luke 18:8) Our National Overseer preached on the convention theme **'Stay Connected,'** encouraging each member to make sure they stayed connected to Christ the true vine.

Boasts were made by each of the Church auxiliary co-ordinators outlining themes for the coming year and reminding the members of God's desire for us to line up with his word and 'stay connected' to the true vine. Special singing from the Druids Heath church was a blessing to the convention and the presence of God was clearly felt during the worship of the National Choir.

Notable points of encouragement over the day were the analogy of the corn whose sheaves have to be removed and the vegetable taken off of the cob to reveal the core. This was likened to our sinful nature and the way in which we need to continually allow God to strip us in order for us to reach perfection.

We were also behoved to listen to those looking on our personal situations through spiritual eyes, and were reminded of Samson who failed to listen to the warnings of his parents. This led to him being led astray and losing his strength and as such, interfering with God's plan for his life.

God clearly wanted to remind His Church that Jesus is coming back for those attached to the true vine. We were truly blessed during the Convention and look forward to the coming year in The Church.

Reporter – Jenetta Hurst